

CONFIDENTIAL

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

January 22, 1954

MEMORANDUM TO THE BOARD ASSISTANTS

SUBJECT: Disposition of the Psychological Operations Coordinating Committee

The attached memorandum to the Executive Officer, OCB, "Disposition of the Psychological Operations Coordinating Committee", 19 January 1954, is being distributed for consideration at the Board Assistants' meeting of 29 January 1954.

In view of the Board deadline of 1 February, it is hoped that the Assistants, acting on behalf of their principals, can reach a decision at the 29 January meeting.

Edward P. Lilly
Edward P. Lilly
Acting Executive Assistant

Attachment:

Copy of Memo from Assistant Director, USIA, dtd 1/19/54.

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COPY

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY
WASHINGTON

January 19, 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Elmer B. Staats
Executive Officer
Operations Coordinating Board

SUBJECT: Disposition of the Psychological Operations Coordinating Committee.

The Operations Coordinating Board approved at its meeting of November 4, 1953, the recommendations of the Board Assistants with regard to the above Committee, one recommendation being that the Board would review the situation in the light of operating experience, no later than February 1, 1954.

The opinion of this Agency has been asked by your office with regard to the continuance or not of the POC.

It is the belief of this Agency that the POC is no longer necessary, and the Agency accordingly recommends that the OCB dissolve POC.

This Agency has arrived at the above conclusion on the basis of the following factors:

1) POC has not met in almost ten months. During that time no situation arose, in our opinion and apparently in that of other members of POC, which produced any demand that POC should meet.

2) POC was founded as a result of NSC 59/1 dated March 9, 1950. This was prior to the constitution of the Psychological Strategy Board, the predecessor to OCB. Following the establishment of PSB the lines of demarcation between PSB and POC were confused. Members of this Agency who attended POC meetings subsequent to the formation of PSB recall that long discussions were held at various meetings solely on jurisdictional questions.

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3) Since the formation of OCB on more clearly defined lines than PSB, OCB, in our opinion, has effectively taken cognizance of matters frequently handled by POC in the past. One of the Board Assistants' recommendations approved by OCB on November 4th was that:

"POC-type problems involving the coordination of overt foreign information activities will, if not resolved directly among the agencies concerned, be handled for the time being as normal OCB agenda items."

In the two-and-a-half months since this OCB approval, it is felt that the POC-type problems mentioned have been handled effectively as normal OCB items.

4) This Agency believes that the Board Assistants and the various panels set up under OCB can effectively handle most POC type problems, and OCB can handle the remainder.

5) It is believed that to reconstitute POC would create an element of confusion with regard to OCB itself and would lead to time-consuming jurisdictional discussions.

/s/ Andrew H. Berding
Assistant Director

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(SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

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APPROVAL
 ACTION
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 PREPARATION OF REPLY
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REMARKS:

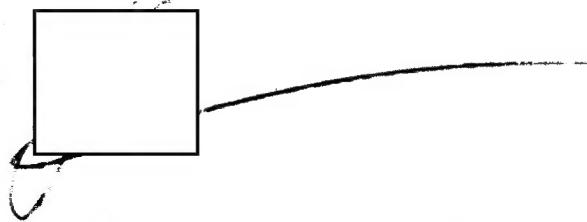
This seems to make
sense to me but I'm
pretty ignorant - What is
your view and whose
views in addition should be
gathered?

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Mr. [redacted] S
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but suggest you
ask [redacted] if
he will agree to
travel [redacted].

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ctBane
has [redacted] [redacted]

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations should be used in the "TO" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "TO" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Routing and Record Sheet should be returned to Registry.

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Operations Coordinating Board (via PP/ICD/Ln 1309 X)				Copy 1	
TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		REC'D	FWD'D		
25X1 1. PP/ICD/Ln	1309 X	JAN 22 1954			Distribution ✓
2. C/ICD		25 Jan 54			
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Extra copy sent to []
16 Feb 1954

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